

TheMinistryofEzra.com



Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Torah of YeHoVaH, and to do it, and to teach statutes and judgments in Israel.

HANUKKAH, the Feast of Dedication

Written by: Sharon Goodwin

Is Hanukkah in the Bible?

Some claim Hanukkah is not found in the Bible. But it is! John 10:22: Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

While Hanukkah is not one of Yehovah's appointed times that we are to observe forever (see Leviticus 23) it most certainly is in Scripture.

Yeshua (Jesus) observed it as the Feast of Dedication; aka the Feast of Lights. That's what Hanukkah means:

dedication. It commemorates the rededica-



Seven lamp traditional Menorah

tion of the Temple. The Hanukkah holiday has a connection with Sukkot in this story, [which is the actual time of Yeshua's (Jesus) birth!] also you will find in scripture Solomon's dedication of the First Temple. King Solomon gathered all of Israel together in the seventh month of [Tishrei] on Sukkot to dedicate the first temple. (I Kings 8:2, 12) Also in the book of Ezra (6:16-18) we find out where the children of the captivity held a dedication for the second temple in Jerusalem. And the children of Israel, the priest, the Levites and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the Dedication. This re-dedication and the miracle (?) of a one-day's cruse of oil that lasted eight days account for Hanukkah's length known also as the Feast of Lights.

Why was the Temple Re-dedicated?

Let me recount a bit of history. It all started with Alexander the Great. He conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine. But under his relatively benevolent rule, those conquered still practiced their religions and retained a degree of self-government. Many Jews assimilated, adopting the Greek language and Hellenistic culture. Others did not. After Alexander's death, his Empire was divided among his generals one named Antiochus would take his throne. King Antiochus ordered all the people in his kingdom to have one religion all the gentile nations obeyed and many in Israel agreed to accept the king's religion. The temple and its priest were no longer holy, set apart to God. The king sent letters along with messengers in Jerusalem and the cities in Judah, to sacrifice to idols (gods) on the altar and offer pigs and other unclean abominable animals as sacrifices. King Antiochus outlawed circumcision, the Sabbath, and studying Torah. Soldiers publicly executed babies that were circumcised along with their mothers. They had to disobey their God (YHVH) and forget his law or be killed. On the 15th of Kislev (December), in 168 BCE, King Antiochus IV Epiphanies being a type and shadow of the antichrist, who Scripture says will seek to change YHVH's TIMES and LAW (Torah); In an act of defiance he desecrated the Temple with smeared pig's blood on the holy altar, put a pagan god up for worshiping named Zeus in the Temple and offered a pig on it. On the 25th of each month they offered a sacrifice to their false gods on the pagan altar that was on top of the holy altar in the Temple. In those days Mattathias Maccabees (the hammer), from the Joarib family a priest from Jerusalem along with his five sons never obeyed the king's orders and continued to keep and obey the covenant God made with his ancestors. When Mattathias died, his son Judah took over leadership. Judah Maccabee and his companions secretly went into the towns calling Jewish people to join them in defeating the king's armies. This amazing victory is recounted in the Book of the Maccabees, volumes I & II. When they recaptured Jerusalem and had purified the temple, they celebrated the rededication on the 25th day of the month of Kislev and made it a law (holiday). It was their Sukkot. For eight days, they celebrated, worshiped, offering hymns of praise and waving palm branches, with joy and gladness.

Some Hanukkah Traditions Today

Hanukkah is like Purim (another holiday that's not found in Leviticus) because it carries a Messianic significance. Purim (Book of Esther) commemorates the preservation of the Jews when Esther and uncle Mordecai thwarted Haman's plans to eradicate them all (Jews). Esther and Mordecai preserved the lineage through which Messiah would come. So did the Maccabees when the persecution of the Jews and desecration of the Temple by Antiochus was ended, and the Temple was re-dedicated to YHVH! They preserved the very Temple in Jerusalem that Yeshua would visit on a later Feast of Dedication aka (Feast of lights)! Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled the Messianic prophecy of (Isaiah:42:7), concerning the healing of the man born blind.

The Hanukkiah, a nine-branch Menorah, is to be lit nightly. The shamesh is the servant light, the longest one in the middle of four smaller lights. Messianics recognize the servant candle as representing Yeshua. Lighting the servant candle first, one candle is added each night for a total of eight nights. Hanukkiah should be placed in a window where it can be seen from the street. It proclaims publicly the miracle of the lights. Two Brachot (blessings) are traditionally said before lighting the candles. Then, on the last night of Hanukkah, a third blessing is added. A prayer is recited, declaring the miracles YHVH performed "in those days at this season" through the brave priestly family of the Maccabees. There are various foods, songs and a popular game like the "dreidle".



"The traditional Jewish prohibition against speaking YHVH's name (Yehovah) began as one of Antiochus's anti-Torah" decrees for Hellenizing Jews.

(Babylonian Talmud, Rosh Hashannah 18b).

We as believers are the temple of the Elohim of Israel. Our bodies are blessed with the honor of the Ruach ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit) living inside us. So as we prepare to celebrate Hanukkah (rededication of second temple), let's rededicate our Temple. And, if you are still worshiping YHVH the way Pagans worshiped their sun-gods, STOP! Repent! Rededicate your tem-

ple! May Yeshua, The Light of the World, be a light in you this Hanukkah. (John 8:12) Again Yeshua (Jesus) spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Find full article on the website: themistryofezra.com

To Christmas Tree or not to Christmas Tree, that is the question?

Written by: Phillip Goodwin



(Rom.8:28) *We know that all things work together for good for those who love YHVH (God), to those who are called according*

Most people know that the Bible does not and cannot elaborate on every situation or question a person may have during their lifetime. The Torah and the writings will not tell you directly if you should follow certain laws passed in your community, or whether to vote

democrat or republican, or the names a descriptions of every false god. If the Bible did make these distinctions, the Torah would contain millions, if not billions of scrolls, unreadable to all humanity. But, the Word does amazingly cover everything under the sun that hu-

manity will face while on earth. One clear example, that almost every Christian misses, is contained in account of the golden calf in the Exodus 32.

Newsletter for Followers of Hebraic Roots

The children of Israel, in an effort to celebrate Yehovah with a feast, chose to fashion a golden calf as symbol of the Creator (god) in an act of worship while Moses was receiving the written commandments from the Father. Almost all Christians believe that they were worshipping a false god on purpose. In reality, the use of the calf was only a "touch point" for the Creator, learned while in Egypt. The Hindu religion and others, as many know, hold the cow as a sacred animal, a symbol of their "god".

When one studies the Torah, Yehovah states that his people shall not worship false gods. In the Hebrew translations, it clearly means that "you shall not have any false gods in His face." The problem of the children of Israel was not worship of a false god; it was the use of the symbol which He did not sanction. Three-thousand people died that day because of their disobedience.



So, what does this have to do with a Christmas tree? The tree historically was used as a worship symbol of Tammuz, Nimrod's illegitimate son deified as a "sun god". The tree is actually a symbol of his manhood decked with silver and gold balls; the wreath is the female. The evergreen tree was also used in honor of sun gods in other cultures because it remained green in win-

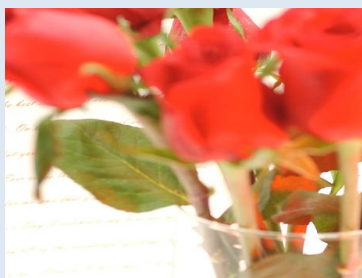
ter. The Christmas tree used by Christians, with the Star of David on top, is not a cute decoration someone invented to make the holiday cheery, it is an article of son god worship called an abomination by the Father. You did not know? Now you do. The Christmas tree and almost all decorations and traditions people use to celebrate Christmas is rooted in FALSE GOD WORSHIP. The use of a Christ-

mas tree to casually worship the Savior, is in fact the golden calf episode all over again! We here at The Ministry of Ezra, will cover this and more topics in greater depth on the website and newsletter to inform those interested in worship of the one true God in spirit and most of all truth. Shalom.

May Elohim(God) help us never to abandon the law (Torah) and it's commands; especially the Sabbath. The Sabbath starts Friday at sunset ends Saturday at sunset. Ex:20:8

WORDS

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Kirsten Y. Maple 1985

Would existence prove onerous sans Earthly vernacular? Oh descendants of Adam, daughters of Eve; Rhyme nor reason fair consistently common, or does mortality endure unyielding with the blessed burden; soft, sweet, stern, sonorous speech? Where would the osseous remains of indignant souls in aqueous graves rest if harked an Act of Random Kindness? Dove of Peace, would you bring a rainbow to mankind plus eight, surrounded by 40 days and 40 nights of HIS fury? Was the

Exodus out of tribulation in vain? Red seas of blood spilled and dissevered; duress ensues for sands of the sea; 250,000 ways of each idiom misconstrued, Tower of Babel exponentially, two. Why must LOVE metamorphose into contempt? Ostentatious absence of logic, Risible bouts of misconception, disregardful emotional crucifixion sharp, stinging artillery less vigor than 1 betwixt labia majora, minora, 2 score & 2 less 10 Sephora lies a Weapon Of Rampant Destruction should one use

it negligently, or would you be willing to reason? Omit angst, doubt, disdain? Return offspring of Alpha and Omega! Dress me in your protection from this lake of fire, but until then subliminally, sublingually, vocally housed your instrument to use whence you so desire . . .



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This non-profit ministry was founded in 2014 and its purpose is to share the true Gospel of the Kingdom to the world. Some of our mission's services include; quality website, a quarterly newsletter, a blog, teaching, audio, and video, pages. What to expect as a member include; access to numerous outreach services like counseling, financial, and spiritual support. You will have links on our website in the resource area for affiliate ministries, products, and business opportunities. Our members include those who follow Yeshua (Jesus) and live a Torah observant lifestyle. We welcome believers who are in search of truth in the scriptures too.

For more information about The Ministry of Ezra and our volunteer program; contact Sharon Goodwin @ 262-643-6448 CST, USA.



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The Biblical Hebrew name of our Messiah

Yeshua basically means "Salvation" in Hebrew. Through transliterations from Aramaic/Hebrew to Greek to Latin to Old English to modern English, He is now often known as Jesus. Because of this, the unfortunate reality is that many do not know His name nor the meaning of His name. It is our preference to use His real name that carries its intended meaning of "Yehovah is Salvation." We are not offended at the trans-

literated name of Jesus. We often insert "Jesus" in parentheses to help the audience connect His real name of Yahoshua/Yeshua back to Jesus. The same applies for God (Elohim). YHVH (Yehovah) is the name given to us in His Word as the name of God. It is our preference to use His name as it was also YHVH's preference to use His name in the Word of God. Depending on the audience we expect to gravitate

to a particular teaching, we incorporate Hebrew to the extent that is expected to be receptive by that audience. We place much value on the Hebrew language and His name, yet also realize that many using our teachings might not be in the same place just yet.

Psalm 27:1-2 *The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? HNV*